



Updates on COVID-19 Response

Update on Virtual Learning - 9/9/20

As we enter into the second week of school we wanted to make sure that we clarified the use of virtual learning for students that are designated as in-person learners. We understand that students will be sick during the school year. When students are home sick we want them to get the rest they need to feel better. It is critical that they do not participate in virtual learning unless they feel well enough to be fully engaged in virtual learning. We also understand that families have plans during the year as well. Virtual learning is not designed for those traveling for personal reasons.

A student may utilize virtual learning for the following reasons:

- Student is home sick but is feeling well enough to be a fully engaged virtual learner.
- Student is home because the wellness check states they have to stay home but they feel well enough to be a fully engaged virtual learner.
- Student is home due to being quarantined but feels well enough to be a fully engaged virtual learner.
- Student is home due to a sibling/family member being sent home or having to stay home for being sick.
- A student is not able to utilize virtual learning if they are on vacation or are traveling for personal reasons.

COVID-19 Testing Update - 9/18/20

COVID-19 Testing Requirements - Although many individuals with presumptive COVID-19 cases are utilizing the rapid test (POC) to get immediate feedback on their condition, the Maryland Department of Health does not consider the rapid test (POC)

accurate for the purposes of public health evaluation. Therefore, a negative PCR test is required to be able to return to school.

Return to School Following COVID-like Symptoms

If a student or staff member is experiencing COVID-like symptoms and not able to be physically present on campus, they must be evaluated by a physician to provide an alternative diagnosis or undergo PCR Testing. Students and staff experiencing COVID-like symptoms cannot return without the presentation of a doctor's note indicating an alternative diagnosis or negative PCR test results.

The Maryland Department of Health guidance on [Response to a Laboratory Confirmed Case of COVID-19 and Persons with COVID-19-like Illness in Schools](#) applies to non-public schools, including return regardless of where and when the student or staff member becomes ill. While the [COVID-19 Decision Aid](#) provides guidance for determining exclusion from or return to school for an individual with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case or an individual experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms, the local health department may potentially preempt a return/exclusion decision if:

- The Person exhibiting COVID-like symptoms does not receive a PCR laboratory test or another specific diagnosis (e.g. influenza, strep throat) by their health care provider.
- The health care provider documents that the person experiencing COVID-like symptoms has another diagnosis (e.g. influenza, strep throat).
- The health care provider documents that the symptoms are related to a pre-existing condition.

Family Members of Those Experiencing COVID-like Symptoms

All family members of an individual experiencing COVID-like symptoms who attend the school, whether as students or staff, are to remain home until the family member experiencing COVID-like symptoms is cleared to return to school.